

Application: 10/806,657
Filed: Mar. 22, 2004
Examiner: James M. Hewitt, Art Unit 3679

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1 (currently amended): A composite, metal and plastic pipe assembly, comprising: first
2 and second metal pipes having respective first and second ends; a first plastic cuff ~~formed~~
3 ~~along the periphery of the first pipe end and positioned around the circumference of the~~
4 ~~first pipe end, the first cuff having an annular groove extending in a longitudinal direction~~
5 ~~of the first pipe~~ embedding the first pipe end therein; a second plastic cuff ~~formed along~~
6 ~~the periphery of the second pipe end and positioned around the circumference of the~~
7 ~~second pipe end, the second cuff having an annular groove extending in a longitudinal~~
8 ~~direction of the second pipe end~~ embedding the second pipe end therein; the first cuff
9 forming a spigot member extending around the circumference of the first pipe end and the
10 second cuff forming a bell member extending around the circumference of the second pipe
11 end; and the spigot member of the first cuff being inserted into the bell member of the
12 second cuff, thereby forming a mating bell and spigot coupling around the circumference
13 of the first and second pipe ends.

1 2 (currently amended): Components for a composite metal and plastic pipe assembly,
2 comprising: first and second metal pipes having respective first and second ends; a plastic
3 spigot cuff ~~formed along~~ formed around the circumference of the first pipe end, the plastic
4 spigot cuff having an annular groove extending in a longitudinal direction of the first pipe
5 and embedding the first pipe end therein, and a plastic bell cuff ~~formed along~~ formed
6 around the circumference of the second pipe end, the plastic bell cuff having an annular
7 groove extending in a longitudinal direction of the second pipe and embedding the second
8 pipe end therein, the sizes of the bell and spigot cuffs being adapted for inserting the spigot
9 cuff into the bell cuff forming a coupling between the spigot cuff and the bell cuff and

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10 between the first metal pipe and the second metal pipe when the spigot cuff is inserted into
11 the bell cuff.

1 3 (withdrawn): The pipe assembly of claim 1, further comprising: a plastic coating
2 formed on the end of the first pipe; a plastic coating formed on the end of the second pipe;
3 a first plastic weld joining the first plastic cuff to the plastic coating on the end of the first
4 pipe; and a second plastic weld joining the second plastic cuff to the plastic coating on the
5 end of the second pipe.

1 4 (withdrawn): The pipe assembly of claim 1, the first plastic cuff having a metal core
2 embedded therein and the second plastic cuff having a metal core embedded therein.

1 5 (currently amended): A method for adapting first and second pipes for coupling,
2 comprising: molding a first plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a first pipe,
3 ~~with the end of the first pipe embedded in the first plastic cuff and the first plastic cuff~~
4 forming a first annular groove extending in a longitudinal direction of the first pipe end and
5 embedding the first pipe end therein; the first plastic cuff forming a spigot member
6 extending around the circumference of the first pipe end; and molding a second plastic cuff
7 around the circumference of an end of a second pipe, with the end of the second pipe
8 embedded in the second plastic cuff and the second plastic cuff forming a second annular
9 groove extending in a longitudinal direction of the second pipe end and embedding the
10 second pipe end therein; the second plastic cuff forming a bell member extending around
11 the circumference of the second pipe end and the bell member being of size and shape
12 adapted for mating with the spigot member.